(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what are the difficulties in permitting the regional language as medium of instruction?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER): (a) to (c) No, Sir Tamil is certainly permitted as medium of instruction in Navodaya Vidyalayas. Admissions in Navodaya Vidyalayas are made at the level of Class VI. In view of the fact that most of the students so admitted would have been taught earlier through the medium of the mother-tongue/regional language, instruction will be provided through the same medium upto VII or VIII Class during which time intensive teaching of Hindi/English, both as language subjects and co-media, will be undertaken. Through skilful use of the media and of modern techniques of teaching languages, switch-over to Hindi/English after VII, Class would present no difficulty. Thereafter the common medium would be Hindi/English in all Navodaya Vidyalayas.

A common medium of instruction after a certain stage is a pre-requisite for the migration of 20% of the students from each Navodaya Vidyalaya to another Navodaya Vidyalaya in a different linguistic region which is an essential feature of the Scheme to promote national integration.

**Satellite port of Ennore**

*298. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:
SHRI T. R. BALU:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) what would be salient features of Satellite port of Ennore:

(b) what would be the estimated cost thereof;

(c) by when it would become operational?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) Port facilities with one or more coal berths with appropriate handling facilities to meet the coal requirements of the North Madras Thermal Power Project are envisaged at Ennore.

(b) and (c) Information will be known after the Detailed Feasibility Report is received.

**Iodine-deficiency among school going children**

*299. DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY:
SHRI CHANDRIKA PRASAD TRIPATHI:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a survey conducted by the All India Institute of Medical Sciences has revealed that about 55 per cent of the school going children suffer from various iodine-deficiency disorders;

(b) whether it is a fact that another survey conducted by the Institute of Nuclear Medical and Allied Sciences has confirmed that at least 20 per cent school going children have various grades of goitre and other iodine-deficiency disorders; and

(c) if so, what remedial steps Government have taken/propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) Yes, Sir. The survey was conducted in Delhi.

(b) The survey covered children in Delhi Schools as well as the children in rural Delhi; children in Chamba District of Himachal Pradesh and Nanpur Village on Meerut Garh Mukhteswar road in Uttar Pradesh